



# PENSBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs K Brown

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015

## Summer Term 2015 - Newsletter - Number 2

Dear families and children,

Welcome back to school after the half term break. We have a busy final half term of the year ahead of us, but one that is packed full of exciting events and activities for the children. I have officially returned back to school today and it is wonderful to be back. Although I have, and continue to go through challenging times, it is so reassuring to know I am supported by the family of Pensby Primary School. Thank you to everyone for your care.

### *Year 6 successes*

I must start with year 6. In the last 2 weeks before half term, year 6 'came into their own' and showed everyone that they were determined, hardworking and a class to be proud of. The staff were astounded at how well they approached their SATs tests. The tests appear to get harder and harder each year and this year really demanded an enormous amount from every child. Without exception, all the year 6 children gave their full effort to every test and showed great determination and positivity. We could not have asked any more of them. Then the following week the children held their annual charity day. This was the first year in 7 years, when Mr Klausen said the children were ready the day before...great organisational skills year 6! The day went really well and the children raised £550 which will be going to cancer research. This is a fantastic achievement. Year 6 have made us all feel very, very proud.

### *School Uniform*

You will recall recently that we asked you how you felt about the addition of a school tie to the uniform choices. I said that we would ask the children to look at some samples and tell us what they thought. This happened last half term. The children overwhelmingly wanted a gold and burgundy striped tie as a uniform choice. This has now been added to the uniform order form. It is optional so should hopefully be welcomed by those who wanted one and those who did not! Uniform order forms have gone out and a copy can be found on the school website under 'newsletters' if you need another one. The optional tie is not yet on the form but we let you know how to order one as soon as the first tie stock arrives. We will need to send off our summer orders imminently and we ask you to return your order to the school office by **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June**.

### *Summer care*

A reminder that we have 3 water cooler fountains in school that the children can use to fill up their water bottles. In the hotter weather your child will need to bring their water bottle to school with them each day. Please label it clearly with your child's name. If your child needs a new water bottle you can choose to buy one from the school office for £1.50. Your child can bring sun cream to school with them each day. This should be clearly labelled with your child's name. Staff are not allowed to apply sun cream to children so we ask you to 'train' them to do this at home - applying sun to exposed areas such as the face, neck, arms, legs. Please, please be extra vigilant with ensuring your child knows how to do this. Sun damage to the skin is very, very serious and can lead to life changing illnesses later in life. We do not



allow the children to share their sun cream as some children may be allergic to certain types of suncream. Finally, do get a sun hat for your child. A wide brim will help to shield the skin from the sun. I am going to be obsessive about sun care, particularly as when I attended the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre last week I was told they have an 11 year girl with widespread Melanoma. Sun care is a serious issue and we do need to protect our children.

### ***Cashless School office***

We are moving very quickly towards our new cashless payment system. All cheques need to be made payable to 'Pensby Primary School'. We will have details of how you can use the online payment facility in the next week or two and will get these to you as soon as we can. We are planning on having staff available to help support you and show you how to access the online payment system in the next few weeks.

### ***Attendance and punctuality***

You may have read in the media, just before the half term break, that the Department for Education expects schools to ensure their pupils arrive on time (except in exceptional circumstances). This is nothing new at Pensby and you know how important we view a punctual arrival at school for all pupils. We have explained over the years that late arrival puts the late arriving pupil at a disadvantage as they arrive when lessons have started and it also disadvantages the rest of the class as their learning is disrupted by the late arrival. We very generously allow pupils to arrive at school up to 8.55am. At this time the first maths lessons starts for every class so no disruption to learning can be allowed and late arriving children have to wait until 9.10am when the lesson has finished. They also get the learning they missed for homework that night. The office staff monitor all late arrivals. Any child who arrives late 5 times is a concern and the family of that child will be required to attend a meeting with me and usually a school governor, so we can explore what can be done to improve the situation. Repeated lateness after this time (10 times or more) could lead to a fixed penalty fine for the family. Please continue to do as you are doing now, and get your children to school on time each day.

### ***New Intake evenings***

If you have a child in Nursery who will remain in Nursery next academic year you will shortly receive a letter inviting you to a meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 5pm. Families of children due to start in Reception class in September should have received a letter during half term, inviting them to their meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 6.00pm. If you did not receive your letter please let us know. Both meetings are not suitable for children to attend, but you may use our after school provision free of charge to care for your child.

*And finally,*

We are currently updating the calendar on the school website with dates for this final half term. These will also be included on the next newsletter. Please take a look!

Thank you,



**Mrs. K Brown - Headteacher**

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